

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                    1.     A shoe comprising:  
2                             an upper;  
3                             a lower attached to the upper; and  
4                             an outsole attached to the lower, the outsole having a ground  
5     contacting surface which includes a first section and a second section, the first  
6     section being formed of a first material and the second section having an outer  
7     layer formed of a fabric material, wherein the first section is free of any fabric  
8     material.

1                    2.     The shoe of claim 1, wherein the fabric material is free of  
2     contact with the first section.

1                    3.     The shoe of claim 1, wherein the second section further  
2     includes a backing layer formed of a second material, the fabric material of the  
3     outer layer being connected to the backing layer to define an integral assembly  
4     and wherein only the backing layer of the integral assembly contacts the first  
5     material.

1                   4.       The shoe of claim 2, wherein the backing layer is connected  
2       to the first material of the first section to define an integral outsole member.

1                   5.       The shoe of claim 2, wherein the backing layer and the first  
2       material are made of the same material.

1                   6.       The shoe of claim 1, wherein there is a gap between the  
2       fabric and the first material.

1                   7.       The shoe of claim 1, wherein the fabric material is a  
2       non-woven fabric material.

1                   8.       The shoe of claim 1, wherein the first material is selected  
2       from the group consisting of rubber materials and plastic materials.

1                   9.       The shoe of claim 1, wherein the first material is a shape-  
2       retaining moldable thermoplastic material.

1                   10.      The shoe of claim 1, wherein a bottommost section of the  
2       fabric material and a bottommost section of first section are planar with respect  
3       to one another.

1                    11.        The shoe of claim 1, wherein the fabric material bulges  
2                    outwardly from surrounding portions of the first section of the outsole so that  
3                    the fabric material extends beyond a plane containing the ground contacting  
4                    surface of said surrounding portions.

1                    12.        The shoe of claim 1, wherein the second section occupies  
2                    a portion of the ground contacting surface sufficient to permit classification  
3                    under subheading 6405.20.90 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United  
4                    States.

1                    13.        The shoe of claim 1, wherein the second section permits  
2                    classification under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule at a tariff rate lower than a  
3                    shoe having a ground contacting surface that is free of the second section.

1                    14.        A shoe outsole having a ground contacting surface, the  
2                    ground contacting surface comprising:  
3                    a first section formed of a fabric material and a second  
4                    section formed of a non-fabric material.

1                   15.       The outsole of claim 14, wherein the first section includes  
2       a backing layer formed of a non-fabric material and being connected to the fabric  
3       material to define an integral assembly, wherein the fabric material is free of  
4       contact with the section.

1                   16.       The outsole of claim 15, wherein the backing layer and  
2       the second section comprise a material selected from the group consisting of  
3       rubber materials and plastic materials.

1                   17.       The outsole of claim 15, wherein the first section permits  
2       classification under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule at a tariff rate lower than a  
3       shoe having a ground contacting surface that is free of the first section.

1                   18.       A method of manufacturing a shoe, the method  
2       comprising:  
3                   providing a shoe upper;  
4                   attaching a shoe lower to the shoe upper; and  
5                   attaching an outsole having a ground contacting surface to the shoe  
6       lower, the outsole being forming by:  
7                   inserting a section of fabric material into a first mold;  
8                   injecting a first material into the first mold and operating the  
9       first mold to form a reinforced fabric material;

10                    inserting the reinforced fabric material into a second mold;  
11                    injecting a second material into the second mold and  
12                    operating the second mold to form the outsole,  
13                    wherein the outsole includes a first section formed of the  
14                    second material and a second section formed of the reinforced fabric material,  
15                    the second section being exposed to the ground contacting surface of the  
16                    outsole, and  
17                    wherein the first section is free of any fabric material.

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19.            The method of claim 18, wherein the fabric material is a  
nonwoven fabric.

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20.            The method of claim 18, wherein the reinforced fabric  
material includes an outer layer of the fabric material and a backing layer formed  
of the first material, the backing layer and the fabric material being connected to  
one another.

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21.            The method of claim 18, wherein inserting the section of  
reinforced fabric material into the second mold and operating the mold  
comprises:  
                 providing a contoured section in the second mold for receiving the  
section of reinforced fabric material;

6 inserting the reinforced fabric material into the contoured section;  
7 and  
8 injecting the second material into the second mold so that the  
9 second material does not contact the fabric material; and  
10 operating the mold at predetermined conditions to form a shape-  
11 retaining shoe outsole.

1 22. The method of claim 19, wherein the second material is  
2 only injected over the first material and over portions of the mold which are free  
3 of the first material and the fabric material.

4 23. The method of claim 18, wherein the second section  
5 permits classification under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule at a tariff rate lower  
6 than a shoe having a ground contacting surface that is free of the second  
7 section.

1 24. The method of claim 18, wherein the injection of the first  
2 material into the first mold and the operation thereof forms a molded member in  
3 which the first material is integrally connected to only a portion of the fabric  
4 material, and wherein the reinforced fabric material is formed by:  
5 removing any fabric material which is free of integral  
6 connection with the first material.

1                   25.           The method of claim 18, further including:

2                               forming a gap between the fabric material and the first  
3 material forming the first section so that the fabric material is free of contact  
4 with the first material.

1                   26.           A method of manufacturing a shoe outsole, the method  
2 comprising:

3                               inserting a fabric material into a first mold;  
4                               injecting a first material into the first mold and operating the  
5 first mold to form a reinforced fabric material;  
6                               inserting the reinforced fabric material into a second mold;  
7                               injecting a second material into the second mold and  
8 operating the second mold to form the outsole,  
9                               wherein the outsole includes an exposed, ground contacting  
10 surface comprising a first section formed of the second material and a second  
11 section formed of the reinforced fabric material, and  
                              wherein the first section is free of fabric material.